

REMARKS

[1-2] The title and abstract are amended as required.

[3] The drawing is amended to change “ $\phi 1$ ” to “ $\phi$ .”

[4] Claims 1-3, 15, 18, and 19 were rejected under §102 over Kuramochi (JP ‘479). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kuramochi discloses a thermistor 12 that is disposed in a predetermined area location in the image forming apparatus and detects the temperature of the area. When the temperature is excessive, power to the fixing roller is shut off.

However, Kuramochi does not disclose a plurality of image forming sections nor a temperature detecting section disposed in an area between a fixing unit and one of a plurality of image forming sections closest to the fixing unit, as recited in claim 1. In fact, Kuramochi does not indicate where its second temperature sensor 12 is located; it does not appear in the drawing.

The first sensor “abuts on the surface of a fixing roller and a means for detecting the size of a transfer material” (Abstract, PURPOSE). New claim 21 recites that the temperature detecting section is not in contact with said fixing unit and this prevents the reference from anticipating. by the first sensor.

Therefore, Kuramochi does not anticipate amended claim 1.

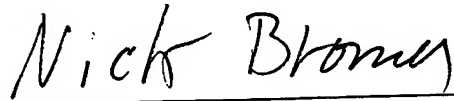
[5] Claim 4 was rejected under §103 over Kuramochi in view of JP ‘445. This rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis of the allowability of claim 1.

[6] Claims 16, 17, and 20 were rejected under §103 over Kuramochi in view of Hirose. This rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis of the allowability of claim 1.

[7] Claims 5-14 were objected to for being dependent. The independent claims 5, 7, and 12 are rewritten and all the claims 5-14 should now be allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Bromer (Reg. No. 33,478)

(717) 426-1664

RABIN & BERDO, P.C.

CUSTOMER NO. 23995

Telephone: (202) 371-8976

Telefax : (202) 408-0924

April 10, 2006  
Date